"WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 9TH AUGUST, 2002*

Import of electronic waste from U.S.A.

*381. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electronic waste is exported from U.S.A. to Asian countries, including India;

(b) whether the waste is hazardous for public health; and

(c) if so, what safety measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Electronic waste is included under List-A and List-B of Schedule-3 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000. The import of this waste therefore requires specific permission of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. No such permission has been given to any authority or person by the Ministry till date.

Biotech alliance with USA

*382. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the United States have formed a biotech alliance under the aegis of US- India Economic dialogue;

(b) whether this alliance would work towards collaboration in research areas and international trade treaties; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this agreement and the scope of the cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The Confederation of Indian Industry has taken

"The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Friday, the 9th August, 2002 was adjourned due to interruptions in the House. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Monday, the 12th August, 2002.

an initiative to launch a US-India biotech alliance under the aegis of US-India Economic Dialogue. It is just a proposal at this stage.

(b) and (c) According to the information received from CI I, private industry and institutional participation will be coordinated by the Confederation of Indian Industry in India and by the US-India Business Council in US. Major activities of the proposed alliance will be focused on support to the development of biotech industry in India, promote commercial joint ventures, collaborative research, public-private partnerships, technology trade, licensing and distribution agreements. The scope of cooperation will also include organisation of specialised conferences and seminars, executive missions to both countries, fellowships and funding research, meeting of experts for regulatory and legal reforms, advocacy to remove impediments in the biotechnology trade, establish working group on international trade and treaties, video-conferences and Internet-based communication. Possible areas for research may include bioinformatics, genomics, diagnostics, vaccines, recombinant therapeutic proteins, new drug discovery, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology and training of personnel.

Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra

*383. SHRIMATIGURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1418 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether all the eligible Readers/Selection Grade Lecturers with Ph.D. degree, in the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, have since been granted two advance increments, as admissible under the Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information provided by the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, all eligible Readers have been granted two advance increments as admissible under the Rules.